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A LETTER OF 1783

The following letter, written by Joseph Koger, a former officer in the militia of South Carolina during the Revolution, and a resident of that part of the former Charleston District now embraced in Colleton County, to two cousins in Virginia is the property of Mrs. B. F. Storne, of Blackville, and was loaned by her to A. S. Salley, Jr., to copy for publication here:

Addressed: Mr—

John: Or: Henry Koger—
Living In Henry County Virginia
On Smiths River

South Carolina Scull Swamp October 4th 1783—

D^r Cousins

I have once more taken this Oppertunity of riting to You, It has bin som time since I attempted to rite to any of you for want of a good chance I do therefore Inform you all, that I and family are in good health at present hoping one and all Injoy the same I have three Children two sons & a daughter M^r Bridge's family Is well there has bin Very great ups and Downs since you left this plase I mean Henry, as I Derict to boath of you m^{rs}. Batty that was Is Dead and Docter Hoof also and your Cosern is not yet settled nor the note from m^{rs}— Murphey has not bin, your things left me and M^{rs}— Koger is all saft tho' much Damaged by hiding out and often Moving I lost old peter went to the British Tirah is Dead and four Others since you Came from hear three Children and a young wench [word obliterated] hatchett is kild by Charles Sanders a axident John & Joshua Williams is Dead Died with the smallpox very great Toreys, M^r Ackermans family is well Salley is married to John Gruber and has one child Sister Moly, is mari,d to James Cavanau and lives In town your Case with St John and Benlingall went in your favour the latter has gone with the British and many Others we have had a sene of Bloodsheed in our State and many of our Dear friends Is among the slain—

I have heard of your Marriage by By Major John Hampton and of the unhappyness wich attend you in it I am Very Sorey it has bin so with you but hope you have got over it By this Polley Bridge is Married and lives Very well gordin has bin a Very great Torey and so has James Thompson tho they Boath Remane with ous Charles Sheppard is kild at the seige of Savana and number of others I should think it a happyness if I could once more see you all to have a full Account of our past life since I saw Either of you M^{rs}., Cook has not give me the least Except the young wench wich I mentioned Died—I do Conclude with my Best wishes to you one and all my uncle and all other Relations and Freinds and am your Afictionate

Cousen & freind
Joseph Koger

M^{rs}—

Koger gives her kind love
to you all —————